



LIBRETTO

Symphony Village's Newsletter

January, 2010

Vol. V No.1

MISSION STATEMENT: To enhance the quality of life and promote a harmonious community through the timely publication of accurate information about residents, events, and activities in and around Symphony Village.

Welcome to Symphony Village

Priscilla Mileski
Milton Mileski
216 Symphony Way

Yvonne Jessick
114 Harmony Way

Welcome Evening



All new residents are invited to a "Welcome Evening" on Wednesday, January 27, at 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse Grand Concert Hall. This is an informal get-together to meet other new neighbors, have dessert, and learn more about your community. Please sign up in the Activities Book in the Clubhouse or call Carol Hodges at 410-758-0591 so we can plan appropriately. If you have been previously invited and were not able to come, please feel free to attend. Again, just call Carol or sign up.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS and HOA MEETINGS

All Symphony Village homeowners are invited to attend the Board of Directors meetings. The 2010 schedule is April 23, July 23, and October 22, all at 10 a.m. and all at the Clubhouse Concert Hall. The SV Homeowners Association annual meeting is December 1 at 6 p.m.

Second Symphony Village Chili Cook Off



The Second Symphony Village Chili Cook Off was held on Sunday, January 10, at the Symphony Village Clubhouse. A great turnout and good time was had by the community along with customers currently under contract and those considering the move towards the active adult lifestyle. The community voted on the best chili with the 1st place going to Dorthea Turek, 2nd place to Eileen Rowley, and 3rd place to Mary Drake. In addition to the great chili and

comradery, the group was able to watch the Ravens win the football game. Below is Dorthea's winning recipe.

Chili Con Carne with Beans

By Dorthea Turek

2 T salad oil	2—15 ounce cans whole tomatoes undrained and cut in small pieces, use scissors
3 medium onions, chopped	
2 garlic cloves or ½ tsp bottle garlic	1—4 ounce can chopped green chilies, undrained
2 lb ground beef	½ cup green peppers chopped
¼ cup mild chili powder	27 ounce can Bushes Chili Beans
2 tsp cumin	15 ounce can light red kidney beans
1 tsp dried oregano	1 T brown sugar
1—6 ounce can tomato paste	

- ❖ In 5 quart pot (Dutch oven) heat salad oil. Add onions and garlic, sauté until tender about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add ground beef breaking up clumps of meat and stirring occasionally, until liquid evaporates and meat is browned, about 10 minutes. Spoon off fat if too fatty.
- ❖ Stir in chili powder, cumin, and oregano, cook 1 minute. Add tomatoes, tomato paste, green chilies, and green pepper.
- ❖ Simmer, covered over low heat stirring occasionally, about 1 ½ hours. Add beans and brown sugar and heat through. It can cook another 30 minutes.

Notes-- I use Bushes chili beans, these are pinto beans not kidney. I had cooked chili the night before and reheated in the morning so the flavors came together. I use a mild chili powder bought from a mail order company named Penzeys Spices. They have a catalog and can be found on the internet.



Need someone to help with your taxes? See the ads for Bob Eck and Bob Butler.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIFESTYLE UPDATE

Upcoming Events

- Friday, January 22, **Game Night** at 7 p.m. Bring your favorite game.
- Saturday, January 23, **Happy Hour** at 6 p.m. Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert.
- Tuesday, January 26, **Lunch Bunch**. Lunch is at **Martini's** in Easton at 12:30 p.m. Sign up in the Activities Book. Meet at the Clubhouse at noon to carpool.
- Thursday, January 28, **Ladies' Happy Hour** at 5:30 p.m. Bring \$5, which provides you with dinner and a beverage.
- Friday, January 29, **Movie Night** at 7 p.m. The movie is to be determined.
- Tuesday, February 2, **Lifestyle Meeting** at 7:15 p.m.

- Sunday, February 7, **Super Bowl Party** at 5 p.m. For just \$5 per person you can enjoy homemade soup and subs, fruit kabobs, chips & dips, scoops & salsa, and brownie sundaes! Regular cash bar available for drinks. There will also be a football pool available. Please sign up in the Activities Book and make your checks payable to [SV@Centreville HOA](mailto:SV@Centreville.HOA).
- Saturday, February 13, Valentine's Day Happy Hour, 6 p. m.



Holiday Party

The Christmas/Holiday party was a success thanks to Allen Beck and “The Omelette Chef” who prepared the wonderful hors d’oeuvres, and pasta. Due to the date change and illness, music was supplied by our own electronic piano. The piano was programmed for Christmas songs and folks gathered around to sing Christmas Carols led by Carole Walsh.

New Year’s Eve Party

A small intimate crowd enjoyed music and dancing with George Drake playing DJ. A lovely evening ended with champagne and desserts at midnight.



OPERATIONS UPDATE ---

2009 Operations Committee’s Initiatives and Accomplishments

On behalf of myself (Ed Frey-Chair), Claudia McGurk (Vice-Chair) and the following active members of the Operations Committee--Jim Dell, Tom Weeks, Gerry Walls, Doris Pullman, Dave Peterson, Tom Love, Cass Smith, Jim Cooke, Lloyd McAtee, and Dave Hoffman, we would like to highlight some of the major initiatives and accomplishments for 2009.

We have three sub-committees as part of the Operations Committee:

1. **Energy Conservation**-Tom Love- Chair
 - a. Members: Jon Briggs, Jim Cooke, Dan Kober, Lloyd McAtee, Bob Offerman, Dave Peterson, and Jim Pullen.
2. **Landscaping**-Cass Smith-Chair
 - a. Members: John DiLaura, Dorothy Hamm, Dave Hoffman, Sandy Love, Betty McAtee, Kathryn Marchi, Ellen Norman, and Eleanor Strietman
3. **AED/Safety**-Tom Weeks-Chair
 - a. Members: Gerry Walls, Jack Dedrick, George Drake

Although members of the Operations Committee chair these sub-committees, they are also comprised of other residents who have been a real asset to the community and these committees. We would like to thank those residents who served on these sub-committees and helped us complete the work associated with the 2009 initiatives and accomplishments.

The following is the list (not in any particular order or priority):

Energy Sub-Committee

- Continued the effort that Dennis Sesplankis started of switching to high efficiency light bulbs
- Reduced the hot water heater temperature by 10 degrees. Insulated the 250-gallon hot water heater and pipes in the Clubhouse equipment room
- Installed insulation pads on the electrical outlets located on the outside walls
- Posted signs around the Clubhouse reminding residents to turn off the lights, etc.
- Reviewed United Propane bills—based on that review where the price appeared to be high. Reviewed this with United Propane and they lowered the unit price
- Installed a separate switch for the lights above the bar
- Contacted United Propane regarding the Terms and Conditions in reference to the minimum purchase requirement and confirmed that this did not apply to SV residents
- Started to explore the use of a generator for the Clubhouse for those times that we are without electricity for extended periods (still under review)
- Started to explore the use of ceiling fans in various rooms in the Clubhouse (still under review)
- Investigated home owner tips to help reduce energy cost in residents' homes (article appeared in the December *Libretto*)
- Worked with Dennis Sesplankis to have the front yard light and the pool lights put on separate circuit breakers so that the pool lights weren't on unnecessarily
- Reviewed the air leakage at Clubhouse doors resulting in having weather seals added (this was in lieu of having to replace the doors)
- Got approval to install turn on/off light sensors in the Clubhouse restrooms and timers on the fans in the fitness room. This helps to eliminate the constant running of the lights and fans
- Studied an alternate energy source to heat the indoor pool and/or heat/cool the Clubhouse—it was determined this was not feasible at this time

Landscaping Sub-Committee

- Identified the “common areas” of the development so we knew where to concentrate our efforts for improvement
- Identified the “no mow” areas, including the ponds, which should help reduce the goose population
- Identified areas in need of erosion protection and documented with photos
- Worked with the Corsica River Conservancy and DNR to inform residents of the Bios wale Project
- Worked with the Town of Centreville to implement the Pond 1 and 2 retrofit. This included organizing meetings to keep the residents updated on the process and time table for implementation.
- Developed a street tree replacement plan that the Operations Committee approved and made a recommendation to the HOA Board. This approved

implementation was scheduled to be completed in December 2009. This initiative will be continued in 2010.

- Developed a draft of “Street Tree Standards and Specifications”-this will be reviewed by the Operations Committee in 2010 for a recommendation to the HOA Board/Developer.
- Oversaw the installation of approximately 40 rain gardens in coordination with CRC and the Covenants Committee
- Initiated the use of “Gator Bags” to improve the ability of the newly planted street trees to survive
- Held educational and maintenance meeting with “Rain Garden” participants

AED/Safety

- Together with George Drake and CERTS were able to get approval from the State of Maryland to install AEDs in the fitness room and card room.



Other initiatives and accomplishments:

- Worked with Dennis Sesplankis and Laura Wright in monitoring the performance of Landscaping and Irrigation vendors. Reviewed on a regular basis the “Complaint Log” and participated in meetings with the vendors to insure that improvements in service were implemented. Based on the 3-year contract with our landscaping vendor “Lasting Impressions” we were able to negotiate additional savings for the 2010 contract year (modified aspects of the original “statement of work” by eliminating or modification of certain work elements) and additional savings of \$23,000 versus the 2009 contract. We should also note for 2009 we were able to achieve savings versus 2008 cost by combining lawn and fertilization with one vendor versus multiple vendors. In addition due to having one vendor and having a 3 year contract we received a 5% savings based on their contract price.
- Developed the “Statement of Work” recommendation to the HOA Board for snow and ice removal. This included the use of Calcium Chloride salt to prevent corrosion to the concrete. Our recommendation with some modifications was approved by the Board for implementation beginning with the 2009 snow/ice season
- Developed and recorded a detail analysis of necessary repairs that the developer needs to make to defective sidewalks, etc.
- Facilitated in conjunction with the builder/developer having the Town of Centreville take ownership of the street lights (including the electrical cost), the maintenance of streets in Sections 1 and 2 (this includes snow removal for those streets), and the electrical cost for the sewage pumping station that serves Symphony Village
- Due to safety concerns, members of the Operations Committee retrofitted the horseshoe pits by eliminating the pavers and replacing with sod

furnished by the builder. New pits were installed with the correct stake distance.

- Elimination of the storage trailers for the outdoor furniture (saved the labor and \$2,000 rental cost of trailers) by keeping furniture in its regular location
- Worked closely with the builder/developer on some appearance issues in the community--for example, the re-landscaping of the front entrance by replacing the dead bushes, maintenance of the unsold lots, the repair of the cupola on the pavilion behind the clubhouse, and the addition of a sidewalk from the parking lot to the pool.

OUTREACH UPDATE

Happy New Year from Outreach

Happy New Year friends!

To launch 2010, Outreach (Symphony Village Outreach Program, Inc) or SVOPI is sponsoring a wonderful day of fun in the Clubhouse. On Thursday, January 21, come join us for our inaugural card/game party. Bring your tablemates and cards/game of your choice starting at 9:30 a.m.

MEN ARE WELCOMED!

Morning beverages, a delicious lunch, door prizes, and more will be included. Cost per person is \$30 (check made out to SVOPI) and all profits go to supporting projects for our community organizations with whom we partner during the year. (This includes Neighbor to Neighbor and Caregivers, right here in Symphony Village.) Sign up in the Clubhouse by the 15th and give your check to Laura Wright. Donations are cheerfully accepted if you would like to support this event but cannot attend.

Nancie Cameron is heading up this program. For any additional information, please phone her at 410-758-3948. Carlene Cooke may also be contacted at 443-262-8146 for information about the card party/games. If you want to play but don't have a table, call Lauren Rose at 443-262-8238. **SEE YOU AT THE CLUBHOUSE JANUARY 21!**

Save the Date for Seventh Annual Hospice Gala

Plan to come and enjoy an evening of music, fine food, and fun on February 26, at 7 p.m., for a cost of \$150. This gala is to benefit Hospice of Queen Anne's and to recognize the volunteers at Estate Treasures who have won the first annual Philanthropy of the Year Award. This fun evening will be held at Hunter's Oak Heathland Manor House. Dance to the fine music of Retrospect and enjoy appetizers and dinner provided by the finest restaurants in the community. For more information, contact Hospice at 443-262-4100.

PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Meet The SV Press

By Karin Larsen



Finally out and about in this neighborhood and discovering people, committees, and lots to do, I began my sampling of SV culture in November. I roamed into a committee meeting that intrigued me, the Publications and Communications Committee. My goal was to find out who these strivers of the "who, what, when, why, and where" of Symphony Village are and what each of them do.

In this mode, I entered through a glass door where the Publications and Communications folks were meeting. It wasn't hard to feel the passion in the room. These high-energy women and men were planning, brainstorming, and making lots of decisions about the SV publications. Wow...the *Libretto*, the directories, the SV website, Welcome Night—these communication tools helped me feel connected after moving to SV.

So, let's meet the SV press! This is just a bit of what they do, because mostly they just DO, and want to be under the radar.

In ABC order of last names:

Linda Blume assembles articles of local interest for the *Libretto*, maintains the rules for uniformity of the *Libretto*, and provides editing expertise for the *Libretto*. She supports activities of the chairperson and helps with the Welcome Nights for new SV residents.

Charlene Smallwood Brown provides an interactive computer-based service for SV residents to access photos of their neighbors. This includes populating and updating databases with residents' photos, names, and addresses; developing, integrating, and maintaining interactive computer-based applications that link residents' photos with their names and addresses and that recognize mouse/ keyboard input to enable SV residents to access photos of residents for inclusion in the photo directories. Charlene assists in proposing and reviewing articles and edits the *Libretto* newsletter for publication. She also participates and supports the chairperson to welcome new residents to the community and facilitates distribution of information to SV residents.

George Drake obtains new advertisements, scans and modifies them as necessary for the computer using Photoshop for placement in the ad section. He composes the ad pages in InDesign and prints in Acrobat for placement in the *Libretto* and the SV website. George also assists in the editing of articles and converts the MS Word document to a PDF (portable document file) and then combines it with the ads for the finished *Libretto* which is forwarded to John Schultz for uploading to the website and to Laura Wright for hard-copy printing for Villagers without a computer. George is also the backup for the Webmaster, John Schultz, and writes and edits articles for the *Libretto*.

Kathy Gauthier helps with the Welcome Nights, editing, and sale of "File of Life."

Joan Hennessey has been on the committee for 4 years. She contributes by editing each edition of the *Libretto*, using the wisdom and myriad of skills inherent in being a Retired English Teacher. Someone referred to Joan as the "Comma Queen of Symphony Village."

Carol Hodges is chairperson and leads the committee members to carry out their jobs on the Publications and Communications committee for the customers--SV residents. She schedules the meetings, composes the agenda, and schedules and runs the Welcome Nights. Carol welcomes new residents and gets them listed in the directory. She writes and delivers the reports at the HOA meetings and also contracts with clients for ads and sends what she gets to George Drake. She is responsible for implementing the goals of the committee effectively.

Gil Hoffman edits, provides computer technical support, and scans pictures for the directory.

Brenda Stoltz edits and occasionally writes articles for the *Libretto*. She assists Pat Scheirer with typing the Libretto every other month and helps at Welcome Nights.

Bob Rose helped with the picture directory and does editing.

Pat Scheirer formats the text and adds the pictures to the *Libretto*. Pat's process begins with Carol, who sends her items from in and around the Village. She then edits the articles and selects the pictures from Google images. She also enjoys being "under the radar" as one of the *Libretto* editors.

John Schultz maintains the website and works to keep it current. This job involves more than can fit on one page. It includes the resident directories, with the exception of the Picture Directory. He maintains the SV Resident and Prayer Chain email lists as well as possible. He is always looking for input from the residents, especially pictures.

Dorthea Turek takes the committee minutes, edits the *Libretto*, and helps with Welcome Nights.

Karin Larsen is the newest member, learning and sampling and volunteering to write some articles.

Join me again for another Meet the SV Press to find out which Committee I visit next.

Symphony Village Communication Guidelines

Check the website (villagehoa.org) regularly for pertinent bulletins that the committee feels would be beneficial, e.g., volunteer opportunities, email problems, and Holiday and snowstorm photos.

All Are Welcome

Everyone is welcome to attend our next Publications and Communications meeting on February 3 at 7 p.m. at 416 Opera Court.

Blast Emails

Atlantic Broadband customers need to set up a different email account (e.g., gmail, yahoo, hotmail, etc.) to ensure that they receive important notices from Laura, Dennis, or John. Atlantic Broadband can still be your internet provider. You just need to set up a different email address. Be sure to contact John Schultz (schultz@schultz.org) to inform him of the new address. If you need help doing this, contact Carol Hodges at 410-758-0591. Bob Rose has volunteered to forward any blast emails to the Atlantic Broadband email addresses. Hopefully, Symphony Village residents will not miss any blast emails.

Advertisers

Please support our advertisers. At the end of the newsletter you will find their ads.



For information about insurance, see the ads for Allstate, Erie and State Farm Insurance at the end of the newsletter.

CLUBS AND CLASSES

The Reading For Fun Book Club

The Book Club met at the Clubhouse on December 15 to discuss the book *Cheating Death* by Judy Reveal, a local author from Greensboro, Maryland. Jack Hennessey recommended this book. Judy attended our meeting and gave the group a very interesting presentation on how she got involved in writing and the many positions she has held, including her current position as president of The Eastern Shore Writers Association. The setting for her book is the Eastern Shore, primarily Kent County. The book is a murder mystery, and Judy has already written a sequel, titled *The Music Room*. Jack provided an orange layer cake (store bought) with coffee for dessert. We are starting off the year with a highly recommended book, *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana deRosnay recommended by Joanne Milczakowski. This book will be discussed at our January 19 meeting. All residents are invited to attend this meeting and share in our discussions, dessert, and coffee. The book for our February 16 meeting is *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. This is her first novel and it has gotten great reviews. This book was rejected by more than 50 literary agents before being published and has sold more than a million copies!



The Gazebo Garden Club

We hope you all have enjoyed the Christmas tree installed in the gazebo. We will be taking the tree down on January 15 or 16, depending on the weather. This tree will be relegated to the dumpster. Betty Schlosser has donated a nice pre-lit tree for next year. Duke and Shirley Clark have agreed to store it for us until next Christmas.

There will be a meeting of the farmer branch of the Garden Club on January 23 or 24, again depending on the weather. Those of you who have signed up should try to attend this meeting. We will plan a layout of the garden and establish general rules for the vegetable garden. For example, pumpkins will not be allowed, because they take too much room. The area allotted to us by Tim Bishop will be divided among the 8 “Sympharmers” who have signed up. The garden area is currently planted with winter wheat, and we will move in as soon as the wheat is harvested. There is a small unplanted area, which will be available for planting early crops such as radishes and spinach. This will all be reviewed at the January meeting.

It is a pleasure to know that in spite of the cold weather, we will soon be watching the daffodils blooming. **Happy Gardening and Farming!**

P.S. We old dumpster divers will be diving for 2x4's and plywood to build a shed to house a nice tiller which has been offered on condition that we have a place to store it.



Homeowner Fire And General Safety

Part III of III by Your CERT Team

As we head into winter, each homeowner should consider the following actions to prevent emergencies or actions to take in case of emergencies. It's a good idea to locate house main electrical, water, and propane shutoffs and you might even put a tag on them for future reference (and in a panic situation, you'll find them quickly and be sure of the correct shutoff!).

HEAT PUMP: If you are not on a periodic preventive maintenance program for your heat pump, contact a contractor and get on one. If snow covers the vents of your heat pump, use a broom to clear them so air can circulate around it.

OUTDOOR GRILLS: When using ANY type of outdoor grill, it should be at least 3 feet from the house. If the grill is too close to the house, the heat will warp your siding – or worse, the flames could ignite the siding. Always keep the propane canister outside!

FIRE ALARMS: Check them twice a year at daylight savings times. Press the TEST button to see that they alarm. Replace the battery at this time also. If you hear a chirping sound coming from the alarm, you need to immediately replace the battery.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS: Check them to see that the needle points to the green (full) area. If not, replace them (or get a recharge if they are rechargeable). Periodically turn the extinguishers over and shake them a couple of times to make them ready if you need them.

HINT: Once you have located your various shutoffs, tag them so you can easily find them when you need them.

Most of these points are reminders of what we were all told along with a zillion other things when we closed on our houses and are meant to be a reminder of where things are around the house. – Your CERT Team

Symphony Village Bird Club

The Bird Club will hold an indoor picnic on Thursday, **January 28**, at noon, in the Arts and Crafts Room at the Clubhouse. Everyone who is interested in birds is cordially invited to attend. Food and beverage will be provided. Please sign up in the Activities Book so we can plan lunch. While lunching, we'll discuss the birds we've seen in SV, and we'll discuss participation in the Great Backyard Bird Count (see below).

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that will take place **February 12-15**. Bird watchers of all ages and experience levels count birds to create real-time snapshots of where birds are in the U.S. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or

you can count for as long as you like on each day of the event. We'll discuss details at the Bird Club Picnic (see above) or you can read ahead by going to www.birdsource.org/gbbc. Count data will be entered via a computer web page or by mailing in hardcopy forms. All the details are on the web site. There is also a checklist on the web site of the birds you may see in this area in February. If you do participate, let Linda Blume know (410-758-3194 or linda7925y@yahoo.com) so she can publicize SV participation in the *Libretto*. For anyone who wishes to join Linda, who'll be in the Clubhouse gazebo on Saturday, February 13, starting at 1 p.m. (weather permitting) to see what birds can be counted in that setting.



Need an oil change or car service, see the ad for Western Auto at the end.

Learn More About the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Tuesday, January 19, 3 p.m. Clubhouse Ballroom

Interested in learning more about environmental education, research and volunteer opportunities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed? Judy Wink, executive director Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center and Patty Campbell of the Legacy Institute for the Environment (LIFE) will offer a power point presentation about the Center and an exciting lifelong learning course about all aspects of Bay conservation for those over 50. The classes will begin on February 19, and meet on Fridays for 8 weeks.



Many residents will be surprised to learn there is a pristine natural habitat that is a sanctuary for many migratory waterfowl almost in our backyard. It is the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, in Grasonville. Situated on five hundred acres of beautiful forest, marsh and wetlands, it showcases a new “green” visitor’s center and offers both walking and canoe trails. Restoration efforts include a renowned oyster sanctuary, gardens and boardwalk.

Panoramic river views have been preserved for the benefit of future generations.

Education programs like “critters and crawlers” are great for teaching grandchildren about the fragile ecosystem around us. Sound interesting? Learn more: Tuesday, Jan. 19, 3 p.m. Refreshments will be available!

Symphony Village Singles

The singles celebrated the New Year with a potluck brunch on January 1. We brought many flavorful dishes to the Clubhouse. All that attended the brunch enjoyed good food and wonderful conversation. We plan to get together in March, so watch for information in the Activities Book.



Need an electrician or a plumber? See Motorhead Electric or Roto Rooter ads.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

New Year's Day Bicycle Ride

Thirteen hearty Symphony Village cyclists participated in the 3rd annual New Year's Day cycling event. Riders rode between



1 and 11 miles depending on their capacity for enduring the wintry weather. Following the ride all enjoyed refreshments prepared by Nancy Cameron, the hot "chocolate-tender." Pictured riders are Royce Holm, Lloyd McAtee, Amy Holm, Steve Quigley, Sue Peterson, Tom Baker, Anita Dell, Pat Scheirer, Dave Peterson, Mary and George Drake, Bill Rowley, and Nancy our hostess. Dave Hoffman also rode bringing our number to 13!



Need shelves, chair rail, or any custom carpentry, see the ads for American Restoration, G & M Construction, and Rob's Custom Carpentry at the end.

LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

OAC Arts Council & Center for the Arts: "Small Works"



Small Works is the first Arts Council fundraiser of the year and features artwork no larger than 7"x9". Over seventy works of art in a variety of mediums will be on display **January 15 – February 13**. They will be raffled off during a gala party on February 13. The first event, with only 24 tickets for sale to the public, is a one-hour **Champagne Reception on January 15 from 5-6 p.m. at Harper Home, a beautiful Queen-Anne styled Victorian home in downtown Centreville** constructed in the 1880's. Ben Tilghman of the Walters Art Gallery will give a brief talk about the allure of miniatures. After the reception, step across the street for a public art reception from 6 – 8 p.m. Refreshments and opportunities to buy artwork raffle tickets will be available at the public reception. Tickets for the champagne reception are \$30 per person and sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Entrance to the art exhibit is free. Call 410-758-2520 to purchase reception tickets or for more information.

Annapolis Antiques Show

The Antiques Show will take place on **January 15 – 17** at the National Guard Armory (15 Willow Street) in Annapolis. The 2010 Show celebrates the "Faces of History." Join us and explore how our shared history can be found in the faces that appear in portraits,

photographs, locket, cameos, portrait miniatures, silhouettes, ceramics, and furniture. Hours are Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday noon – 5 p.m. Admission is \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets, see www.annapolis.org.

Creepy Crawlers II

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center has added a new Creepy Crawlers program to their schedule on the third Saturday of each month, 10 – 11:15 a.m., for children ages 1-5, accompanied by an adult. The classes involve communication, story time, a hike, role-playing, crafts, live animals, a scavenger hunt, and a snack. The program on **January 16** is “Wise Old Owl.” Children should dress for the weather. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. Register by calling 410-827-6694 or by email jwink@bayrestoration.org. The events are held rain or shine. See all the details and the full schedule on website www.bayrestoration.org.

25th Annual Nautical & Wildlife Art Festival

This art festival is the Eastern Shore’s premiere presentation of nautical and wildlife artists in residence. Noted painters, sculptors, model shipbuilders, and multi-media artists highlight this annual show. This year the event will take place on **January 16-17** at the Convention Center in Ocean City. Hours are Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is charged and includes admission to the Craft Show (below). For more information, call 410-524-9177 or see www.ococean.com.

North American Craft Show

There will be a variety of quality, juried arts and crafters exhibiting their products for sale at this craft show on **January 16-17** at the Convention Center in Ocean City. Hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is charged and includes admission to the Art Festival (above). For more information, call 410-524-9177 or see www.ococean.com.

56th Annual Baltimore Boat Show



This annual event will take place on **January 21-24** at the Baltimore Convention Center. This is Maryland’s longest-running indoor boating event that offers families a one-stop shop for powerboats, fishing boats, gear, and accessories as well as boating and sailing seminars for all ages. Hours are Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 before January 21 and \$10 after. Children under 15 are free when accompanied by an adult. For more information and to purchase advance tickets, visit

www.BaltimoreBoatShow.com.

Gunston’s Antiques Appraisal Day

Gunston Day School in Centreville will host an Antiques Appraisal Day on **January 23**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Appraisers will be on hand to examine general antiques, furniture, porcelain, art pottery, general artwork, sterling, and more. They will be offering interesting details about items and a verbal opinion as to their value. Opinions of value will cost \$25 per single

item or 3/\$65. For more information or to pre-purchase tickets for Opinions of Value, visit www.gunstondayschool.org.

Monster Truck Winter Nationals and Thrill Show



This year's event will take place in three performances on **January 29-30** and will offer something for everyone with its showstopper ingredients. Ger'er Done, Crushstation, War Eagle, Havoc, and Viper will join Big Foot in the arena for side by side racing and freestyle contests. The event will be at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center in Salisbury. Friday's performance begins at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday's performances begin at 2 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$8.50 for children 12 and under when purchased in advance on the website. VIP reserved seats are available at \$25 plus fees for adults and \$12.50 children 12 and under. VIP seats include access to a special pre-show Pit Party. See www.wicomicociviccenter.org for details and to order tickets.



Having furnace problems? See the ad for Kudo Service, Inc.

Plungapalooza 2010: Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge



www.plungemd.com.

This year's Polar Bear Plunge will take place on **January 30** at Sandy Point State Park to raise money for the Maryland Special Olympics. The festival will run all day beginning at 8 a.m. Plunges will take place at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Attractions include live music, boardwalk-style games and activities, a food court, live pig racing action, a children's corner, and the crowning of both Miss and Little Miss Polar Bear Plunge. Most of these activities are scheduled for inside the festival tent. For all the details, visit

Creepy Crawlers I

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center offers Creepy Crawlers I, a program for young children (ages 1-5), on the first Monday and Tuesday of each month from 10 – 11:15 a.m. An adult must accompany children. The classes involve communication, story time, hiking, role-playing, crafts, live animals, scavenger hunts, and snacks. The program on **February 1** and **2** is "Feather Fun." Children should dress for the weather. Pre-registration is required and the cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. Register by calling 410-827-6694 or by email jwink@bayrestoration.org. The events are held rain or shine. See all the details and the full schedule on website www.bayrestoration.org.

Plants and the Environment

Adkins Arboretum will present this program on **February 3**, 10 – 11:30 a.m. This garden-focused review of plant physiological ecology with Sylvan Kaufman, Ph. D. will provide participants with a better understanding of the plants in their gardens, including selecting the

best location for each plant and diagnosing and treating ailing plants. This program is part of the four-part Ecology for Gardeners series that also includes Plant Population Ecology (March 10), Pollination and Integrated Pest Management (April 7), and Healthy Soils (April 21). The fee is \$10 for members, \$15 for general public, \$35 for members, and \$50 for general public for all four sessions in the series. Pre-registration is required. Call 410-634-2847, extension 0, or go to www.adkinsarboretum.org.

Tea in the Trees



Take a break on **February 6**, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., for an informal Saturday morning walk. Stroll through Adkins Arboretum's varied habitats and delightful places to gather ideas and impressions. Return to the Visitor's Center or Nursery for tea and homemade goodies and a chance to see your ideas germinate into language during a brief writing session. Bring your favorite pen or pencil and a small journal or notebook. Plan to attend the next time and add more thoughts to your journal. No previous writing experience is necessary. The walk is free for members, free with admission for the general public. Pre-registration is required. Call 410-634-2847, extension 0, or go to www.adkinsarboretum.org.

27th Annual Seaside Boat Show

The Eastern Shore's largest boat show with boats, accessories, clothing, arts, crafts, and children's events will take place on **February 12-14** in Ocean City at the Ocean City Convention Center. Hours are Friday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is \$8, \$15 for a weekend pass. For more information, call 1-800-632-3767 or go to www.ocboatshow.com.

Stargazing Community Observing Night



The Anne Arundel Community College Astronomy Club will host a family event on **February 13**, 7:30 – 10 p.m. The club meeting is 7:30 – 8:30 (public is invited) followed by stargazing - bring your own telescope and binoculars or use one of the eight AACC telescopes to view planets, stars, and the moon, weather permitting. Come to the Astronomy Lab in the rear of lots A and B beside the Resource Management Building on the AACC Arnold campus. The event is free. For details, visit www.aacc.edu/events.

Nature and the Underground Railroad Guided Walk

This program will take place on **February 13**, 1 – 3 p.m., at Adkins Arboretum. Celebrate Black History Month at the Arboretum with a guided walk to explain the historical and cultural cross-section that combines the story of the Underground Railroad and the natural landscape of the Eastern Shore. The walk is free for members, free with admission for the general public. Pre-registration is required. Call 410-634-2847, extension 0, or go to www.adkinsarboretum.org.



Who can do my landscaping? See Solidago Landscapes, and MVP Irrigation.

Annapolis Restaurant Week

Annapolis Restaurant Week takes place this year **February 15 – 21**. There will be three course offerings: Lunch \$15.95 and Dinner \$29.95. Visit www.annapolisrestaurantweek.com for updated information and all the Annapolis participating locations.

Art Show: Discovering the Native Landscapes of Maryland's Eastern Shore

The art show will take place **February 15 – March 26** at Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely. It celebrates the Arboretum's mission of conservation. For information, go to www.adkinsarboretum.org.

HOW WILL THE STATE TREAT SENIORS THIS YEAR?

By Muriel Cole



The Maryland General Assembly meets from January 13 through April 12, 2010. The State Government funds a myriad of services on which seniors depend. Functions from nursing home oversight, to utility regulation, to teacher retirement programs fall within the State's purview. Half of all Medicaid funds are provided by the State as well as a large amount of the costs to maintain senior centers, meals-on-wheels, and local transit buses.

The 33rd annual Legislative Rally is on Tuesday, January 19, in Annapolis. The event will include Town Hall style meetings with the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House as well as meetings with individual delegates from each district. Caucus leaders from Kent County's district (the 36th) are Nancy Voss of Denton and myself. This year, like last year, the "gorilla in the room" is the budget.

The State budget outlook is bleak. According to the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute, Maryland's estimated revenue for this fiscal year is \$3 billion below last year. After cuts already being made, a shortfall of \$2 billion is estimated for this year. Busch mentioned the relatively low unemployment level in the State compared to other states but wants to consider tax incentives for small businesses, which hire new employees. He said that restrictions on spending Federal stimulus money further restrict the State, and 2010 will be a year to "try to hold our own."

Never assume that legislators know the issues or the concerns of seniors. "Everyone knows that seniors vote more than any other group. The bad news is that they are also the most unorganized of any voting group," according to Ted Meyerson, President of United Seniors of Maryland. "It will take all the strength we can muster to continue to preserve and enhance the mental, physical, and financial well-being of Maryland seniors," he added. For information or rally tickets, call 410-823-6432 or 410-778-0831, or go to www.unitedseniors.net.



Need an awning for your patio? See the Cool Deck Solution ad.

Recipe of the Month

Crabbie Quiche

From the Kitchen of Karin Larsen

Ingredients:

9" pie shell	3 T. white wine (not "cooking wine")
4 T. Swiss cheese	10 oz. fresh crabmeat
3 T. Mozzarella cheese	4 T. butter
1 cup heavy whipping cream	3 shallots or scallions
3 eggs	1 tsp. fresh ground pepper or to taste
1 tsp. sea or kosher salt to taste	

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Sauté shallots or scallions in butter and add crabmeat and stir for 3 to 4 minutes. Add wine; raise heat and cook until liquid has evaporated. Set aside to cool. Combine eggs, cream, cheeses, salt and pepper. Add this to cooled ingredients and pour into pie shell. Place in preheated oven; bake for 30 minutes or until browned and set. Serve with your favorite salad. Enjoy!



SPECIAL REMINDERS

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Laura Wright's [email—symphonyclub@verizon.net](mailto:symphonyclub@verizon.net)
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